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Algiers Meeting: PNC Decisions Basis for PLO Unity

Representatives of five Palestinian resistance factions successfully concluded four days of talks in Algiers April 23. The official final statement affirmed the participants' concern over unity within the PLO ranks and its role in "confronting the imperialist-Zionist plots against the Palestinian people." Participants also asserted that higher-level talks, which would include all Palestinian factions, should be held in preparation for the next PNC session.

Delegations representing Fatah (headed by Khalil al-Wazir), the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP — headed by Abu Ali Mustafa), the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP — headed by Yasir Abed Rabbo), the Palestinian Communist Party (PCP — headed by Suleiman Najjab) and the Palestinian Liberation Front (PLF) met April 19 under the patronage of the Algerian National Liberation

Front Party (ANLFP) and the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP). "They discussed the current dangers facing the PLO, the liquidationist plots against the revolution and the brutal attack against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories," according to official communiques. Reports from Algiers said solutions to the crisis prevailing within the PLO topped the agenda. Participants spoke of the need to preserve unity in PLO-affiliated institutions and to consolidate its role as a vanguard for the struggle of the Palestinian people.

The dialogue was held in "an atmosphere of national responsibility" regarding the future of the revolution, reports said. The participants confirmed their adherence to the PNC resolutions, especially those taken at the 16th, and latest, session, considering it the basis for unity and the means to deal with the differences that may arise.

"One of the main bases for unity is the rejection and confrontation of the Zionist and imperialist settlement proposals, including the Camp David accords, autonomy and the Reagan plan," the concluding statement said.

Participants also agreed to escalate the Palestinian national struggle in all its forms, "including the armed struggle."

More meetings will be held in the next few weeks to confirm efforts to resolve all outstanding problems and obstacles before the next PNC session. The participants agreed that the National Council session will be held on the basis of a "total political and organisational national agreement."

It was the first official meeting of representatives of the major factions since the fighting in Tripoli and PLO Executive Committee Chairperson Yasir Arafat's visit to Egypt late last year.

Vigilantes Smash Cars in Beit Sahour Rampage

Unidentified vigilantes smashed the windshields of five private cars in Beit Sahour Sunday night April 22. In a series of incidents during the past month, 26 cars have been damaged by vandals.

Qusta al-Hayek and his nephew Hani were on their way to midnight Easter mass when they discovered the sabotage. The front windshields of their cars were smashed by stones which landed inside. The steering wheel of Qusta's car was also damaged by a stone.

Both the front and rear windshields of a third car belonging to Ghattas Jarayseh, which was parked on the same side of the road, were also damaged. Two more cars parked at the entrance to the town also had their windshields broken.

George al-Hayek, a Beit Sahour resident and a relative of two of the car owners, said people heard gunshots on the same night. The Israeli-backed Village Leagues, dissolved earlier this year, still fire shots in the air during their nightly patrols in the town, residents reported.

The car owners filed official complaints at the Bethlehem police station. Police inspectors did visit the scene and questioned the owners about the incident.

Beit Sahour Mayor Hanna al-Atrash told *Al Fajr* that vandalism in his town had reached an "alarming" stage. The mayor said that the municipality is planning a public meeting to discuss a solution to the problem. He called on residents to report any information they might have to the municipality or the police.



The Hashim Mosque in Gaza was vandalised April 21 /AO photo

Vandals Wreck Islamic Shrine in Gaza

Unidentified people broke into the mosque of Hashim Ben Abd al-Munaf, the Prophet Mohammed's grandfather, in Gaza on the night of April 21, wrecking the shrine. The saboteurs tore up the curtain and threw stones over the grave of the mosque.

Ra'fat Mustafa Shaban, the *waqf* director in Gaza, told *Al Fajr* that when he went into the mosque he discovered that the

door was broken and Hashim's headstone removed.

Abu Shaban would not speculate about who may have destroyed the mosque. He said, however, that some extreme Muslim groups are against putting tombs in mosques. Mohammed Awad, the head of the Islamic religious court in Gaza, denounced the attack, calling it "an attempt to obliterate the Islamic monuments." Awad said the at-

tack gravely harmed the people and Islamic educational institutions of Gaza. Religious Muslims in the Gaza Strip are planning a meeting to discuss the incident.

Hashim Ben Abd al-Munaf died in Gaza in the 14th century while returning from Syria to Mecca. He was buried in the town. The one-dunum mosque was built in the 16th century. Gaza was renamed Gaza of Hashim to honour the traveller.

Settlement Road to Destroy Orchards, Homes

One hundred and eighty villagers from Deir Jarir and Talbeh, northwest of Ramallah, objected April 24 to the decision of the higher zoning council at the military government headquarters at Beit El to open a road through land designated for construction and agriculture in the two villages and Ramoun. If the plan goes through, villagers would be prevented from building within 70 metres of the 60-metre-wide road.

Representatives of the objectors, Talbeh village council chairperson Elias Khourieh, George Iskandar Nasif, and the mukhtar of Talbeh, and Abd al-Fattah Hussein Barakat, the mukhtar of Deir Jarir, met with a senior Israeli army officer who introduced himself as 'Akkin.' He accepted their objection and asked them to resurvey the lands marking the position of houses which would be destroyed by the road and list land and house

owners who would be affected by the road.

Israeli authorities prepared a scaled zoning plan for the roads in the West Bank last February. The plan included a net of roads connecting Beer Sheva with Hebron, and the Netanya-Jenin road with the Jordan Valley area, Damia Bridge and Bisan. The road through the three Ramallah-area villages will connect the three villages with Ma'aleh Efraim settlement and Jericho.

George Nasif told *Al Fajr* the Ramoun village council refused to object to the road which passes through two blocks of land in the village.

Nasif said the Israeli authorities did not directly notify the residents of the three villages about the road. Some residents in Talbeh accidentally learned about the project 10 days ago. After the news came out the

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Israel Under Siege in S. Lebanon

A year ago, most of the attacks on the occupying Israeli forces in south Lebanon were unsuccessful. Now, however, it is presumed that 'professionals' are at work in south Lebanon producing sophisticated bombs.

Western military sources say radio-detonated bombs planted at roadsides have been developed through improved cooperation between the various guerrilla groups.

"These experts are in south Lebanon but somebody organises them," one source estimated. In the Muslim townships and villages in the south there is increasing hostility against Israelis. This hostility is inflamed by the strict security measures taken by Israel to combat the attacks on its troops.

Israeli soldiers severely restrict movement on the only road that connects south Lebanon with the rest of the state. The main victim is the fruit trade, on which many people depend for their livelihoods.

Israeli troops block villages for hours and sometimes days following guerrilla attacks. Dozens of youths are questioned every time and the inhabitants' houses are searched.

In the town of Sidon, Israeli troops open fire in all directions when they are attacked. Passers-by are wounded and cars and shops damaged because of this, according to local inhabitants and other witnesses.

Nowadays, an Israeli patrol that enters a Muslim village is usually faced by a hostile public who throw stones and try to

block its way with burning tyres. People are warned at village entrances by calls of *Allah Akbar* (God is Great) through local mosques' loudspeakers.

Military and political sources say the clergy are leading the civilian protests and it's possible that in certain cases even the military actions.

Village religious leaders do not admit any connection between them and the guerrilla fighters but they unhesitatingly praise attacks on Israeli troops. At least three of these leaders have been imprisoned by the Israelis. One of the most outstanding of these, Sheikh Ragheb Harb, from the village Jibshit, was murdered last February in mysterious circumstances.

In 'Idun village, Sheikh Ali Mahdi Ibrahim told a Reuters correspondent, "Someone who fights against aggression cannot be called a terrorist." Sheikh Ragheb Harb's successor in Jibshit, Sheikh Abd al-Karim Obeid, follows in his predecessor's footsteps, noting, according to Muslim law, "Those who are cheated are permitted to use all means to remove injustice from their shoulders."

Jibshit was the arena for the most violent clash so far between civilians and the occupying forces when a joint force of Israelis and 'South Lebanese Army' forces raided the township March 27. Three persons were then shot to death.

Military sources say the guerrilla fighters apparently act in small groups of 10 to 12 at

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"Before and after inquiry"

Arens Orders Inquiry into Alleged Executions

TEL AVIV — Israel's defence minister, Moshe Arens, said a probe will start into the shooting death of four Palestinian commandos who hijacked an Egged

bus April 12. Arens refused to comment on reports that one Palestinian was killed in captivity. He said, speaking to the Israeli army radio station, the condi-

tions of the death of the four Palestinians will not be known until the investigation is over. He said, however, that he has no reason to suspect the reports given by the army on this matter.

Karameh to Head New Lebanon Coalition

Rashid Karameh, a leader of the National Salvation Front, accepted the nomination for the Lebanese premiership April 26. The new coalition government he is expected to form is the product of intensive political dialogue between the Lebanese political factions over the past few weeks.

Karameh's acceptance came two hours after meeting with Amin Gemayel, the Lebanese president. He stated that the time has come to put "a final end to unproductive conflicts."

Karameh, who has been prime minister 10 times since 1955, helicoptered from his Tripoli home to the Ba'abda meeting with Gemayel.

Official Lebanese sources said the new prime minister will share power with the president. Karameh explained to the Lebanese president that the "historical

opportunity for Lebanon's salvation has come." They reportedly discussed all ways of ending the civil war.

Al Safir newspaper reported April 25 that Karameh asked the Lebanese president to remove all military checkpoints and positions on the Tripoli-Beirut road, including the checkpoint near Tripoli.

Karameh told reporters after his two-hour meeting with Gemayel April 26 that he will end negotiations to form a new coalition government next Saturday. He is also arranging to meet Lebanese politicians. He said that the Lebanese army will be promoted to impose sovereignty on all Lebanese territory. He said the time has come to "drop weapons and to pick up the pen and the pick to build Lebanon."

Walid Jumblatt, head of the Socialist Progressive Party, expressed his support for the

coalition government headed by Karameh. He said he will serve in the government.

Pierre Gemayel, head of the Phalange Party, and Nabih Berri, head of the Amal movement, will also participate in the government as ministers, according to the report from Beirut. The government will include between 26 and 28 ministers.

The Lebanese president met former Prime Ministers Salim Huss, Rashid Sulh and Taqi al-Din Sulh last week to discuss conditions in south Lebanon and national reconciliation.

Syrian radio reported April 25 that Farouq Shari'a, the Syrian foreign minister, met with Jean Obeid, a Lebanese presidential advisor. They discussed the coalition government and the intense efforts made by the Syrian president, Hafez al-Assad, to help Lebanon reach a national government.

Casualties Continue for Occupying Army

There were conflicting reports of the extent of Israeli casualties in military attacks by the Lebanese National Resistance Front (LNRF) this week. A LNRF communique issued in Beirut April 20 said five Israeli soldiers were either killed or wounded in an attack at the village of Kufr Hounah, east of Tyre. Israeli military reports, however, said that four soldiers were wounded in three separate attacks during the past week.

An Israeli soldier died in hospital April 26. He was wounded in a tank exercise in Lebanon six months ago, the Israeli spokesperson claimed.

In the communique, the LNRF said its forces engaged an Israeli armoured personnel carrier at the entrance of the village, killing and wounding all five occupants. The APC was also destroyed. The statement added that Israeli troops surrounded the village, conducted house-to-house searches and made a number of arrests.

An Israeli military spokesperson reported April 21 that one soldier was wounded the previous day when an explosive charge was detonated by remote control near the Litani River. Israeli forces searched the area of the explosion and dismantled a second charge before it went

off.

A second Israeli soldier was wounded April 21 in a remote control explosion east of Lake Qaroun in the eastern sector. He was evacuated to hospital.

Another soldier was wounded April 19 when a hand grenade was thrown at a military convoy in Nabatiyeh. Israeli troops blocked traffic in the city and searched for the attackers. There were no reports of any arrests.

The fourth soldier was wounded April 25 when a RPG rocket was fired at an Israeli patrol as it drove through Nabatiyeh. Israeli troops returned fire. On the same day Israeli troops came under small arms fire in the village of Ansariyeh. An Israeli military spokesperson said that the fire came from a speeding car. The attackers also tossed a grenade at the position. The spokesperson claimed there were no casualties.

In another incident on the same day an Israeli patrol came under light arms fire in the Nabatiyeh area. The *Jerusalem Post*, which reported the incident, said there were no casualties.

UNIFIL forces dismantled an explosive charge in the village of Sha'abiyah, 14 kilometres south of Tyre.

Hebron Footballers Beat France, Jordan

During a triumphant 16-day football tour of France and Jordan the Hebron Athletic Club (HAC) team won four games and lost one. The 28-member team returned to the West Bank April 22.

Mohammed Owawi, the head of the delegation and the chairperson of the HAC, described foreign tours as a 'golden opportunity' for the West Bank athletic clubs to raise their level to those of international athletic clubs.

"We represented Palestinian football from the West Bank, especially when we met international sports delegations who came to visit the French Federation of Athletic Clubs," Owawi said. Teams from Ireland, Hol-

land, Italy, Morocco and Kuwait invited the West Bank to play matches in their countries.

Owawi said the French teams were of higher quality than the HAC but said, "Our persistence and intense two-month training before the tour helped us win the matches." The tour came about after a visit of a delegation from the French Federation of Athletic Clubs to Hebron in 1982.

Hebron lost its first game against St Pierre 2:1 but then went on to beat Annecy 5:1, Vigneux 5:2 and Darenay 3:0.

In Jordan 15,000 spectators watched the West Bank team beat Wihdat 2:0 in Amman April 21. Wihdat, one of the

largest Palestinian refugee camps, is considered one of the strongest teams in Jordan. After the match the West Bank team was invited to play in the National League's 'independence tournament,' which opens June 14.

The tour party consisted of six footballers representing three athletic clubs in the West Bank and six footballers from the HAC. Seven coaches and the seven administrators from the HAC accompanied the team.

On returning from Jordan across the bridge April 22 the delegation were warmly welcomed in both Jericho and Hebron. The French consul, West Bank dignitaries and sports fans gave the team a heroes' welcome.

Palestinian Testifies to Torture in Detention

"There is no law here, only you and me," Moshe Biton, the interrogator, said to the Arab detainee, Walid Mahmoud A'arbeh, when he was questioned by him in the detention cell in Fara'a prison, near Jenin.

This was according to A'arbeh's testimony March 29 in the Tel Aviv District Court at the opening of the policeman's trial. Biton still serves in the police although he was transferred to another station, in Qalqilya.

A'arbeh said this in response to a question by the prosecutor Tami Pincus about his 'experiences' during detention in Fara'a prison. The court session was attended by representatives of Amnesty International, two men from the International Committee of the Red Cross and Biton, on the defendants' bench, dressed in jeans and a blue jacket and wearing sun glasses. A'arbeh says that on May 17 he was ordered by the police to the Jenin station and was accused of incitement and participation in a demonstration. After some time he was transferred to Fara'a prison where he met the defendant.

"They put me in the *zinzani* (solitary confinement cell) and after a few days there, without a mattress to sleep on, Biton took me out to the interrogation room. He sat me on a wooden bench and took a stick in his hand. Nails with their heads exposed protruded from the stick.

"He gave me a pen and paper and told me to confess. I

asked, 'About what?' He said, 'That you participated in the demonstration.' I refused. He hit me on my arm and said, 'Write!' I refused.

"He took off my shoes," A'arbeh continued, "and made me lie on the floor in the corner of the room and started hitting me on the soles of my feet. He told me that if I did not confess, he would bring a man to rape me. Then he blindfolded me and poured water over me, on my feet and head."

"He put a copper wire behind my ear and in my pants. Suddenly I felt electricity all through my body and it felt like my body was being torn up. He demanded that I confess and I refused. This was the last abuse. Afterwards he threatened (reprisals) if I told anyone that he beat me."

In the cross-examination by Biton's lawyer, Abraham Feingold, the witness had difficulty explaining how he could distinguish the tools of maltreatment such as copper wire if his eyes were bandaged shut. The witness did not say either why he didn't speak about the maltreatment to his fellow detainees during the days that passed between the first and second interrogations.

"You said electricity was passed through you but I visited the cell and saw there were no electric cables and not even an electric outlet," pressed the defending lawyer.

"I don't know. I felt electricity," the witness responded. (Translation: Hadashot, March 30, 1984.)

Tortured Sheriff Released



Mike Mansour, the Albuquerque deputy sheriff who was tortured and denied treatment for a heart condition at Ramallah military headquarters, hoped to leave the country April 26 after being freed without charges.

Mansour, 44, was detained April 2 by two Israelis at the village of Deir Dibwan and held for 22 days. He was isolated, deprived of medication for his heart ailment and hooded until he signed two statements in Hebrew, a language he doesn't know. His interrogators spoke to him in Arabic, which he barely speaks having spent the last 21 years in the US.

Mansour, who owns a jewelry store in Albuquerque, was remanded for 10 days April 17 and suffered a heart attack the next day. According to legal sources, he was deprived of his

own medication for most of his detention and drugs prescribed by a prison doctor were not given to him. He was hospitalized at Ramle prison hospital April 19.

At the remand hearing military judges read two sentences from a Hebrew document purporting to be Mansour's confession. They said he had aided and cooperated with a Palestinian organization.

Friends of the detained man say he was not active in Palestinian American organizations but had donated US\$100 annually to a US tax-exempt registered charity, the United Holy Land Appeal.

Two senators, a congressman and the governor of New Mexico have all reportedly called the Israeli foreign ministry to complain of Mansour's detention. According to reports published here, he will publicize his case when he gets to the US.

Raymond Clore, the US consul who saw Mansour in jail, would not comment to *Al Fajr* about the case. He said that although Mansour had given written permission for him to speak on his behalf, this was voided on his release.

Mansour's release came after he agreed to leave the country immediately. Charges against him were dropped, but there could be no confirmation of his departure.

Um Khalil Appeals to Jordan to Release Son

Samira Khalil, chairperson of *Inash al-Ura* charitable society in al-Bireh, appealed April 24 to the Jordanian authorities for the release of her son, Samir Salameh, a physician held in Jordanian jails for the past year. Salameh and seven other prisoners started a hunger strike on April 17 to protest their maltreatment in Zarqa military prison and to demand their release.

Khalil told reporters from *Agence France Presse* and *Al Fajr* English that her son has not been given any explanation or reason for his detention. "The Jordanian authorities also restrict prison visits to Salameh and his colleagues," Samira Khalil said. "I appeal to the Jordanian authorities as a mother who is being prevented from seeing her son to release him before his health deteriorates."

Samir Salameh Khalil is a pediatrician who studied in Rumania, Algeria and the Soviet Union. He served as a volunteer doctor in Lebanon during the 1982 war.

The Jordanian authorities arrested him in April 1983 after his return from the Algiers meeting of the Palestine National Council, of which he is a member. He was preparing to open a clinic in Amman where he lives with his wife and son.

Over the last year Samira



Khalil has sent many appeals to international organizations calling for their intervention with the Israeli authorities who have

prevented her from travelling to Jordan. She said she has received solidarity messages on her son's behalf from all over the world.



A scientific exhibit was held at Abu Dis College in Jerusalem between April 23 and 26 /AO photo

Two Bombs Injure Israeli Picnickers and Sapper

Four Israelis were wounded in a bomb blast in the area of Tzufin, near Qalqilya, April 23 and an explosives expert was injured the same day as he tried to defuse an explosive device near a mosque in Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip.

The first blast occurred at a picnic area near Qalqilya when an Israeli stepped on a hidden electric detonator. The bomb shrapnel wounded four people, all from the same family. They

were evacuated to Meir Hospital, in Kfar Saba.

Israeli soldiers searched the area for more devices and arrested a number of people from Qalqilya for interrogation about the incident, Israel Radio reported April 24.

The Israeli press reported that the explosive device was home-made and consisted of gunpowder taken from a mortar shell. The charge was attached to

an electric detonator and planted beside a wall at the tourist area.

In the second incident, the Israel army radio reported that a Gaza police explosives expert received facial wounds when a device he was trying to defuse blew up.

The radio report said that explosives experts had already detonated one device planted next to the local mosque and were working on the second when it went off.

Sweden Declares Support for Palestinian State

STOCKHOLM — The Swedish government affirmed its support March 21 for the Palestinian people and its right to self-determination and an independent state on their soil.

Following is an excerpt of the statement:

"The basic principles for a settlement of the conflict in the Middle East are contained in the Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. We hold the view that these resolutions indicate a negotiated settlement which involves Israel withdrawing from the areas it occupied in 1967 in exchange for the recognition by neighbouring states of Israel's right to exist within secure and

recognised borders. However, in our opinion, these resolutions must be complemented with a recognition of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including the right to their own state.

"If a settlement of the Palestinian question is to be just and durable, it must be accepted and supported by the Palestinian people. This presupposes that Palestinian representatives who enjoy the confidence of their people take part in the peace-making process. In our view, the PLO and its leadership — despite internal conflicts — enjoy the support necessary for this task."

Grenoble to Aid Um al-Fahm

A four-person delegation from Grenoble municipality is visiting the Triangle and the West Bank. The delegation members' first stop was Um al-Fahm April 22 where they met supporters of the *Ansar* movement (an offshoot of *Abna' al-Balad*). *Ansar* supporters explained Um al-Fahm's conditions and asked for help from the Grenoble municipality to build a sewage system in the village, to pave streets and to improve conditions in the Um al-Fahm secondary school.

Ansar activist Marwan Agghbariyya told *Al Fajr* that the

delegation, who visited Um al-Fahm for two days, are planning to offer help to the village through the local council.

Agghbariyya added that two members of the Grenoble delegation are members of the Grenoble Committee of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. The delegation spent two more days visiting Nazareth municipality, progressive Israeli and Palestinian lawyers and al-Bireh's *Inash al-Ura* (Family Rehabilitation Centre).

Grenoble has a population of 100,000.

Al Fajr Arabic 'Extremist' MK Hopeful Charges

Binyamin Ben Eliezer, former coordinator of military activities in the occupied territories, called *Al Fajr* Arabic newspaper "extremist." Ben Eliezer made his charge while on an election campaign tour in Nazareth April 22. He is running for Knesset elections on the *Yahad* list, organised by former Defence Minister Ezer Weizman.

Al Fajr Galilee correspondent Fayez Abbas tried to question Ben Eliezer but was told the former general considers *Al Fajr* "an extremist paper."

Ben Eliezer told Abbas not to ask any more questions after Abbas told him that *Al Fajr* speaks for the aspirations of the Palestinian people.

Likewise, the Knesset list

head, Ezer Weizman refused to answer an *Al Fajr* question about whether he is ready to carry out negotiations with the PLO or whether he wants to hold negotiations with Syria and Jordan instead. Earlier, Weizman described himself as a man of peace and said the Palestinians must accept the 'autonomy scheme.'

Ben Eliezer resigned his post as coordinator of military activities last month in order to run on the Weizman Knesset list. According to some reports, he was involved in legal scandals while he served in his post. The reports said that Ben Eliezer was running a real estate company which was selling Arab land to Israelis. (Translation: *Al Fajr*, April 23, 1984.)

Palestinian Academic Held

Sami Mar'i, a professor of sociology at Haifa University, was arrested from his home after midnight April 25 and held in detention for 24 hours. He said he was interrogated on "educa-

tional and scientific matters," according to Israel Radio. His release was secured through the intervention of Knesset member Shulamit Aloni, of the Citizen's Rights Party.

THIS-WEEK'S CENSORSHIP

Following is a breakdown of censorship cuts for issue 208, April 27, 1984:

Number of original articles submitted to censors	18
Number of articles totally censored out	7
Number of articles passed	11

Rattled Student Wins Town Arrest Cancellation

A compromise was won recently in the High Court to cancel a restriction order against Technion (Haifa Technology Institute) student Maysara Sayed as punishment for his participation in the UN Conference on the Question of Palestine in Geneva, September 1983.

The Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), led by former High Court Judge Haim Cohen, prepared Maysara Sayed's appeal. In it ACRI claimed, through lawyer Adam Fisch, that the restriction order issued by the northern command general under the Emergency Defence Regulations (1945) "was made in a vexatious manner and in order to punish without trial."

ACRI's representative further claimed the restriction was

aimed at eliminating *Abna' al-Balad* and the Progressive National Movement, which is active on campus but not legally recognised: ie by declaring these bodies illegal associations. ACRI asked in its appeal for the cancellation of the order to enable the Acre student to continue his regular studies at the Technion.

The government's legal advisor, Yitzhak Zamir, was asked to issue instructions to stop police commanders 'rattling and punishing' people against whom security orders were issued.

The representative of the Haifa Branch of the ACRI, advocate Adam Fisch, who initiated the appeal to Zamir, claims that the absence of instructions in the law "creates unclarity relating to the rights of those restricted

and exposes them to arbitrariness on the side of police commanders, who received the most sweeping powers under the law."

Fisch further claims that the main complaints relate to the arrangements of reporting of the restricted people at the police stations. They are ordered to report once, twice or even three times a day. In some cases, the report is at a police station far from the restricted person's home. The frequent reportings cause great harm to "those restricted persons who are working. It seems to us, that this is unbearable. Apparently some police are not aware enough of the fact that reporting is intended for inspection and not for punishment and rattling." (Translation: HaAretz, April 25, 1984.)



Volunteer works during clean up in Haifa: "unprecedented."

Volunteers Reclaim Haifa Quarter After City Refuses Help

The Halisa quarter in Haifa was given a complete facelift April 23. Volunteers from all over the country joined 150 locals in a work day organised by local community committees and a parents' committee.

An abandoned building, scheduled for demolition by the local authorities, was completely renovated, cleaned and painted. "It will now be used as a community centre," a neighbourhood

activist told *Al Fajr*. "We hope to open a child care centre there."

The volunteers toiled all day to clear the long-neglected slum neighbourhood of accumulated garbage. Teams spruced up and painted streets. Gush Etzion Street was renamed *Share' al-Shawki* — as it was called before 1948 — by the workers.

Haifa's Labour Party-controlled municipality refused to

lend tools to work camp organisers. They turned instead to the Nazareth council who provided all equipment needed.

Calling the work day "a great success," neighbourhood sources said they plan another work day soon to build a children's playground. "The whole neighbourhood came out to work, Arabs and Jews together, everyone. It was unprecedented," the sources said.

ALAMI ASKS FOR REMOVAL OF BORDER GUARDS FROM MOSQUE AREA

JERUSALEM — Sheikh Sa'ad al-Din al-Alami, head of the Supreme Islamic Council and the Muslim *uaqf*, sent a message to Israel's minister of interior and police asking that the Israeli border guards placed inside the al-Aqsa Mosque compound be removed. Alami said the presence of these armed men violates principles of Islam, which bans carrying weapons in places of worship.

Alami accused the soldiers of not respecting the sanctity of the place because they urinate in the compound.



Sheikh Sa'ad al-Din al-Alami (left): "Israeli soldiers violate sanctity of holy place."

The message added that the soldiers pray inside the mosque, walk with girls and kiss them and smoke inside the mosque, which violates the sanctity of the holy place.

Alami asked that the soldiers be withdrawn and placed instead outside the main doors leading to the mosque for protection reasons.

Alami sent another message to Israel's prime minister asking that digs under the mosque area be halted because they are damaging the historic Islamic buildings in that area.

AL FAJR

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Unity Maintained

Palestinian fighters leave for Tunis from Tripoli: "The war in Tripoli, though easier to wage than the Beirut siege, was harder to accept and to live with."

by Ghassan Bishara
Our Washington, DC Correspondent

Swift Moves

When El Salvador decided to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem it did so on the assumption that the Arab and Islamic world's reaction to such a transfer would be unfavourable albeit not causing a break in diplomatic relations. El Salvador calculated that the Arab and Islamic world's reaction would be similar to Costa Rica's May 1982 embassy move which caused no break in relations.

Surprisingly, however, this time the Arab and Islamic reaction was swift and firm. The Jerusalem Committee of the Islamic Conference met in Morocco in an extraordinary session and decided to call on all members to sever diplomatic relations with any country that ventures to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Hitherto, Egypt, Bangladesh and Morocco have complied with that call and severed their diplomatic relations with both Costa Rica and El Salvador.

It is of great interest to note here Egypt's leading role. First of all, Egypt was the only country that decided to recall its ambassador from San Salvador in retaliation for El Salvador's embassy move. Egypt was also the first country to abide to the Jerusalem Committee's resolution calling on the Islamic countries to sever diplomatic relations with both Costa Rica and El Salvador.

It is expected that within the coming few weeks, the majority of those Arab and Islamic countries that have relations with Costa Rica and El Salvador to break them off.

These uncharacteristically swift and firm moves should be a clear warning and signal to all countries, particularly the United States, that any future embassy move to Jerusalem might very well entail serious consequences.

The PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, having suffered several major difficulties in the last two years, was expected to disintegrate following the first of these, the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982. Yet due to its stature in the world arena and mainly to the loyalty of the Palestinian people, the PLO is still alive and kicking. National unity was always considered the bedrock providing the necessary incentive for Palestinians to go on with their objectives and for friendly people and their governments to provide much needed solidarity and assistance. Serious efforts to re-establish national unity are now underway after the emergence of internal differences in the past year. The hope among Palestinians and their friends is that these will soon bear fruit.

The Palestinian ability to adapt to new realities, as observed on a recent visit to Tunis, is impressive. There is, it appears, a built-in mechanism which takes over automatically and stubbornly when Palestinian unity is threatened. How Palestinian activists cope in Tunis with their new reality, how they communicate with each other, console and support each other is a prime example of human beings who are under stress but who are determined to survive. While being aware of the stress within Palestinian ranks, individuals and leaders face it with a psychological determination that leaves absolutely no room for failure.

A middle-aged Palestinian woman who spent 10 of her best years in Israeli prisons said, "We have developed immunity against stress or potential stress." Her husband, who also spent a similar period in jail, agreed and softly added, "We face whatever problems we encounter here or anywhere else with only one certain outcome, success."

Tripoli Bombs More Painful

It has been known that Palestinian fighters and their allies in Lebanon fought selflessly and defiantly in the Lebanese south and in Beirut as confirmed by Israeli journalists and soldiers. The Israeli bombing, and siege of Beirut for three months was no picnic for those who were in Beirut in the summer of 1982. If you ask Palestinians who lived through both the Beirut and Tripoli experiences, Tripoli, they attest, was most painful and will leave a greater scar.

Talking to Yusef, a Palestinian fighter now in Tunis, about Tripoli the sadness on his face and in his eyes couldn't be hidden. "Shells, bombs and bullets," he said, "are always fearful when they are targeting you and always painful when they hit you, but they are worse, much worse, when you know that those who want you dead with this ammunition are your brothers, be they Palestinian or Arab." Others said that they were raised, trained and socialised to believe that Palestinian weapons are to be directed against those who occupy Palestinian homes and land. It is not easy at all, they continued, to try to negate this upbringing and direct ones' weapons against ones' brothers.

"A whole new frame of mind needs to be formulated, which will attempt to suppress the previous one and which will allow you now to

direct your guns against those who, only yesterday, shared the trench with you." The war in Tripoli, they concluded, though easier to wage than the Beirut siege, was harder to accept and to live with.

Similarly, other setbacks of the PLO were in a way self-inflicted. One is closely connected to the Tripoli war and the Fatah dissidents' movement, while another relates to the visit by Chairman Arafat to Cairo, Egypt. While the Lebanon invasion of 1982 left the 'Palestinian body' practically sound, the Fatah split, the Tripoli conflict which followed and the effects of Arafat's visit to Cairo resulted in a fracture of Palestinian national unity. Much Palestinian movement's energy is now being directed to healing that.

For many Palestinians in Tunis and elsewhere there is a determination that these attempts at reconciliation among the Palestinian factions must not fail. The continued existence of the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people is an idea agreed upon by all factions within the movement. Discussions over disagreements, Palestinian rank and file members say, should be within the PLO framework and institutions. Disagreements between the various branches of a movement are not unusual, they say. Executive branches usually ask for a freer hand within confines dictated by responsible branches and they often don't get it.

Chairman Arafat's visit to Cairo, following his departure from Tripoli, Palestinian activists in Tunis say, is one of those cases where the executive committee chairman decided to act on his own. Yes, some agree, other members of the executive committee should have been consulted but no, they defiantly argue, this act need not be the cause of so much friction.

It is true that while in the US, President Mubarak of Egypt presented the Palestinian case and that of the PLO clearly and openly. It is also true that Chairman Arafat's visit to Cairo may have contributed to that. Yet, Palestinian activists agree, it is obvious that not one single Palestinian was allowed back to their country, nor was one dunum of land returned to Palestinian ownership from Israeli hands as a result of Mubarak's visit to Washington.

In Washington and in the US, Palestinian and American experts are convinced beyond any doubt that there is nothing the Arabs are willing to do which will change the US Middle East policy into more evenhandedness. Thus, friction within PLO ranks over a possible solution to the Palestinian issue and involving the US through Arab pressure or mediation is pointless they concluded. This, as many Arab and PLO officials believe, is not only because 1984 is an election year in the US, but it is in fact the US position every year as it has been since and even before 1948.

Anxiety in Palestinian ranks over a permanent split in the PLO has now reached new heights. Palestinian activists and thinkers in Tunis, the US, and the occupied territories believe that what is needed is a deep, thorough look at old Palestinian principles executed under a newly cohesive and powerful PLO.

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The last municipal elections in the West Bank took place in April 1976. Instead of allowing the Palestinians in the occupied territories to exercise their right of choosing their representatives in 1980, the occupation authorities extended the period of the councils.

In 1981 the authorities dissolved more than ten municipal councils for refusing to collaborate with the so-called 'civil administration.' It was evident that the authorities violated the Jordanian Law for Municipalities No. (29), dated 1955, which should be retained in the West Bank, as an occupied territory. Article 8(1) of that law reads:

"The period of the councils is four years. . . The council may be dissolved before ending its period and a committee may be appointed instead for a period which does not exceed one year, during which a new council ought to be elected. The dissolution must be according to a decision by the prime minister, on the recommendation of the minister of interior affairs, explaining the reasons justifying the dissolution. The decision of dissolution must not be subject to any means of challenge or petition."

Article 8(2) reads:

"If a new council is not elected within the period of one year, the dissolved council should be restored to

An Open Letter to All Who Care for Law, Democracy and Human Rights in Israel

by Mahmoud Talab Nammourah

perform its duties until a new council is elected. "This shows clearly two points: that the authorities can dissolve a council and nominate a committee for one year only, but there must be reasons justifying the dissolution and it is supposed that these reasons must be for the public good; and that within the period of one year, the law requires that either a new council be elected or the dissolved council be restored to perform its duties.

Now more than two years have passed while the authorities have neither restored the dissolved councils nor allowed new elections.

One of the dissolved councils, Dura municipal council, petitioned the Israeli High Court which issued an order nisi February 15, 1984 requiring the respon-

sible Israeli authorities to show cause why they refuse to implement the Jordanian law with regard to municipal elections.

The residents of Dura, as well as all the Palestinians in the occupied territories, are anxiously awaiting the decision of the Israeli High Court and consider this case as a true examination of 'justice' and 'democracy' in Israel. They have been asking: 'Why were the councils dissolved? If they were negligent, why did the Israeli authorities extend their period, which ended in 1980? Why didn't they then order a new election? Did they commit a security offence or crime? If so, why weren't they brought before a court and tried? Does anyone believe that these municipal

councils were dangerous to the security of Israel? Is the security of Israel so fragile that an elected municipal council threatens it? Which is better and more sound in the field of the relations between the Israelis and the Palestinians of the territories: dictatorship and imposition, or democracy and coexistence?'

It is evident that neither the security of Israel nor the public concern in the territories requires such dissolution. We are aware that the dissolution was illegal. It was merely a political coercion to oblige the councils to support the 'civil administration,' which was supposed to be a step in the way of the false, hollow, evasive 'autonomy' which was completely rejected and boycotted by the Palestinians in the occupied territories and in the diaspora.

It is quite evident, not only to the judges of the Israeli High Court — famous for their integrity, impartiality and wide legal knowledge — but also to any simple man that the dissolution was for political purposes and has no legal basis.

It was an interference in the internal affairs of the population and an aggressive violation of human rights, as the simplest principles of justice require allowing the people to manage their municipal councils and not having Israeli officers and their men imposed on them.

The colonisation of Palestine by Zionism has had deep effects on the internal dynamics, mainly the social structure, of Palestinian society. Before the creation of Israel in 1948, Palestinian society was semi-feudal, with the middle class trying to establish itself as a major social force. The creation of Israel affected the whole social structure in Palestine by creating a new social and political group, the refugees — mainly of peasant and proletarian origin. Palestinians who remained inside the 1948 boundaries of Israel have undergone dramatic social and cultural changes. The systematic and official Israeli policy of expropriating Arab land has transformed the majority of Arab peasants into a labour force serving the economic interests of the Zionist society.

The standard of living of the Palestinians inside Israel since 1948 has been affected by the high standard of living of the Jewish society. As a result, a new Arab middle class, composed of skilled labour, professionals, teachers and merchants, began to emerge in an alien and imposed Jewish-European environment. The whole economic structure of the Arab society has become tied to the general economic structure of the Israeli society. This has created a general atmosphere of alienation and dissatisfaction among the different strata of the Arab society inside Israel. The rise of Palestinian nationalism in the 1950s as represented by the *al-Ard* group was crushed by Israel because of the inevitable conflict between Zionism and Palestinian nationalism. The forced existence of Israel has stripped the Arab population of their economic independence, social and cultural uniqueness.

The same process of alienation but in different forms and under different historical circumstances, has been faced by the Palestinians in the occupied land since 1967. The West Bank market was tied to the market of Israel after 1967 and it provided the Israeli market with cheap labour. The expropriation of Arab land on the West Bank, building of Jewish settlements, the worsening conditions of the Israeli economy (mainly

Neither Israel nor Jordan has Won the Political Battle on the West Bank

by Mohammed Mohammed



"The forced existence of Israel has stripped the Arab population of their economic independence, social and cultural uniqueness."

after 1973) and the rising material expectations of a large segment of the Arab population have led to widespread emigration, mainly to the Gulf states, where better economic opportunities are to be found. The continuous social

hemorrhage resulting from the emigration of the most skilled section of the Palestinian society on the West Bank — professionals, teachers, intelligentsia — has coincided with the Israeli policies to speed up the process of *de facto* annexa-

tion of the West Bank.

The political consciousness of the Palestinians under occupation and their nationalist feelings reflected itself internally in electing nationalist mayors [in 1976] in West Bank cities. Externally, it reflected itself in affirming the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The educational centres on the West Bank, such as Bir Zeit, Najah and Bethlehem universities, have repeatedly been struck down by the Israeli military authorities because they symbolise the PLO influence there.

The 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon was but an attempt to militarily subdue the Palestinian people both in Lebanon and the West Bank through destroying the military power of the Palestinians. Since the evacuation of the PLO from Beirut, the Israeli authorities have been launching one of their biggest wars ever in their short history; this time a violent but very terroristic war is launched against the Palestinian population on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This war is waged against the educational, economic, political, social and cultural aspects of the Palestinian society. The purpose of Israel has always been one — the total material and cultural dispossession of the Palestinian people.

The fighting in Tripoli and the rebellion among some Fatah ranks played into King Hussein's hands. The king seized the opportunity and attempted to revive his defunct influence in the West Bank, which can become a sad reality if the PLO, symbolised by the leadership of Arafat, gives him the green light to negotiate in its name. It is true that the PLO has lost its military and political position in Lebanon, but neither Jordan nor Israel has won the political battle on the West Bank. This is the most promising aspect of the Palestinian politics in the near future. In spite of the Israeli attempts to dispossess the Palestinians as outlined above, and in spite of the Jordanian attempt to re-emerge as an influential force on the West Bank, the Palestinians have shown their allegiance to one important thing: unity against internal as well as external enemies.

Wahid Hamdallah, an outspoken nationalist and the elected mayor of Anabta, Tulkarm district, has been unable to leave his town for four years. No matter what emergencies arise, he must obtain a permit from the military governor before he leaves his town.

The aging mayor of Qalqilya, Haj Amin Nasser, is under a six-month town arrest order. He has violated the order several times, hence risking a military trial, in order to continue medical treatment in Nabulus and Jerusalem after the military authorities failed to respond to his request for permits.

The two mayors are examples of a common phenomenon in the occupied territories since 1979. As the Palestinian people under occupation became increasingly politicised, the military authorities in the West Bank and Gaza employed British mandate regulations in an attempt to quell it.

The exact number of town arrestees is not known. The Israeli military spokesperson said, "We don't keep such statistics and if we did we wouldn't release them."

Palestinian researchers estimate that over 130 orders have been issued in the occupied territories since 1967. According to research done by Law in the Service of Man, a Ramallah-based research centre, as of December 31, 1983, there were 47 Palestinian residents in the occupied territories under town arrest. Trade unionists, professional association officers, activists in charitable societies and prominent individuals have been singled out. There are two main categories of restriction. Some people are prevented from travelling from the West Bank or Gaza to Israel or vice versa, others cannot move beyond the city limits. The second category is usually coupled with other provisions, such as orders to appear at a local police station at specified times — up to three times a day — and confinement to one's house between sunset and sunrise. Israeli policemen occasionally make surprise night visits to make sure that town arrestees are not violating the orders.

Violation of town arrest is an offense punishable by a five-year jail term and/or an IS\$5,000 fine.

Legal Background

Restrictions of movement in the West Bank and Gaza (excluding Jerusalem) are issued under Military Order 378, issued in 1970. It parallels British mandate emergency regulations of 1945. It gives far more power to the military than British colonial law. Article 81 of MO378, for instance, empowers any officer or soldier to enter and search any place at any time; Article 85 empowers a military governor to issue orders restricting a person from specified areas; Article 87 empowers him to put people under movement restriction. Palestinians who live in Jerusalem, the Triangle and the Naqab, face similar restriction under the emergency regulations themselves.

According to a research study, *A Look at Movement Restriction Orders in the Occupied Territories 1967-1983*, by Ghassan Abdullah and Tarek Sabila, more than 210 cases of restriction have been recorded in pre-1967 Israel and 27 in Arab Jerusalem.

Widespread Phenomenon

Although Articles 85 and 87 of MO378 were issued in 1970, only nine cases of town arrest were documented in the West Bank and Gaza up to 1979. In that period detention without trial was the most popular form of restriction. From 1979 on, 120 people, mainly

Since international pressure forced the Israelis to stop using detention without trial, increased use has been made by the military of town arrests and restriction orders. *Al Fajr* news reporter Sami Aboudi recently interviewed town arrestees, lawyers and human rights experts to examine the impact of restrictions on victims' lives, health and work.

Imprisoned at Home

workers and students were subject to restriction. The extensive application of this order coincided with the big growth in the popular political movements in the occupied territories. After 1978 there was an influx of released political prisoners who finished serving long terms and were in the community. Until July 1983, former political prisoners made up more than 45 percent of all town arrestees. There was also a slight relaxation of repression as the authorities attempted to woo the West Bank into autonomy talks.

The honeymoon period was short-lived. Between mid-1979 and August 1982, 57 people were put under town restriction. Arab Studies Centre research showed that the climax of town restriction measures came during the second half of 1982 when more than 34 cases were recorded. Legal experts link the escalation to the Israeli government's drive to crush the PLO power base in the occupied territories.

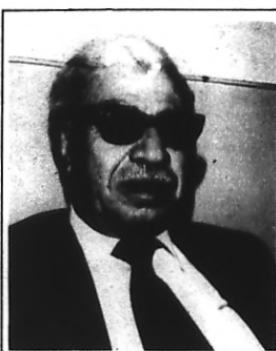
The increased reliance on town restriction measures also followed the Israeli government's decision, under pressure from international human rights organisations, to freeze its administrative detention policy. One legal researcher explains that the Israelis have found the town restriction alternative a less embarrassing method to control political activity.

Travel restrictions are usually issued in an arbitrary manner. There are no known criteria to determine who gets put under town arrest. Generally speaking, however, the publicity around a certain individual and the military governor's own recommendation are important factors in determining whether it is extended or not.

Consequently they are extended as much as the military governor wishes. The longest recorded case of town arrest is that of Mayor Wahid Hamdallah, who is serving his ninth order.

Punishment for No Crime

In most cases town arrest orders are issued as punishment for specific activities. Dr Amin Khatib, head of the Association of Charitable Societies in Jerusalem, Samih Abu Aisheh, director of the Hebron Red Crescent Society, and Khalil Abu Ziad, head of the



Two Palestinian mayors under house arrest by order of Israeli occupation authorities: Haj Amin Nasser of Qalqilya and Wahid Hamdallah of Anabta. Health reasons forced Nasser to violate his town arrest, punishable by a five-year jail term. Hamdallah is serving his ninth town restriction order.

Prisoners' Friends Committee, for instance, were all put under town arrest in February 1982 after they collected food donations for Golan residents blockaded by Israeli troops attempting to force them to take ID cards.

Lawyer Jamil Nasser Othman was put under town arrest in Jericho on February 1983, shortly after he was elected head of the striking Lawyers Union. Election to student councils often bears a similar punishment.

In his legal introduction to the Arab Studies Centre's *A Look at Town Arrests*, Lawyer Ala' al-Din al-Bakri wrote that "travel restrictions are punishment measures for no specific crime." He explained that Military Order 378 has no criteria other than the whim of a military governor. Commonly the term 'security reasons' is used to justify town arrests. As the reasons are not specified, they do not constitute sufficient grounds for lawyers who represent their clients before the military objections committee.

Appeals

West Bank and Gaza town arrestees

continued on page 10



Khalil Abu Ziad (left), head of the Prisoners' Friends Committee, was put under house arrest in 1982 after collecting food donations for Golanis blockaded by Israeli troops. Unionist Amal Wahdan (centre), who needed frequent medical attention during pregnancy, represents the only recorded case of a Military Objections Committee ruling in favour of an appeal to lift town restriction. Faisal Hussein, director of the Arab Studies Centre in Jerusalem, plans to appeal to the High Court.



PALESTINE PHOTOGRAPHED

Over 400 photographs went on display in Jerusalem's Arab Chamber of Commerce hall April 13-15 in the first-ever Palestinian national photo exhibit. The display was sponsored by the Fine Arts Department of the Arab Thought Forum and involved 20 national institutions and six local photographers. Most of the photos were of artistic significance and documented Palestinian events, sites and culture, both of a historical and everyday nature.

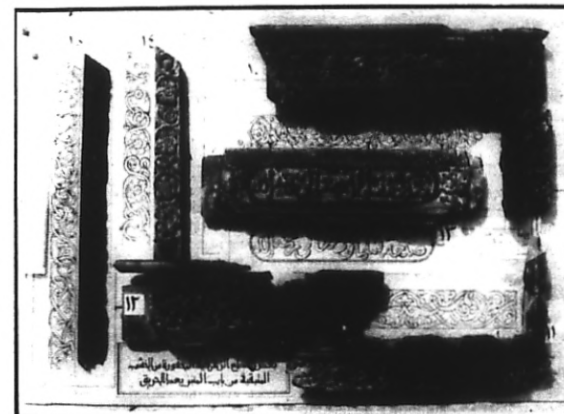
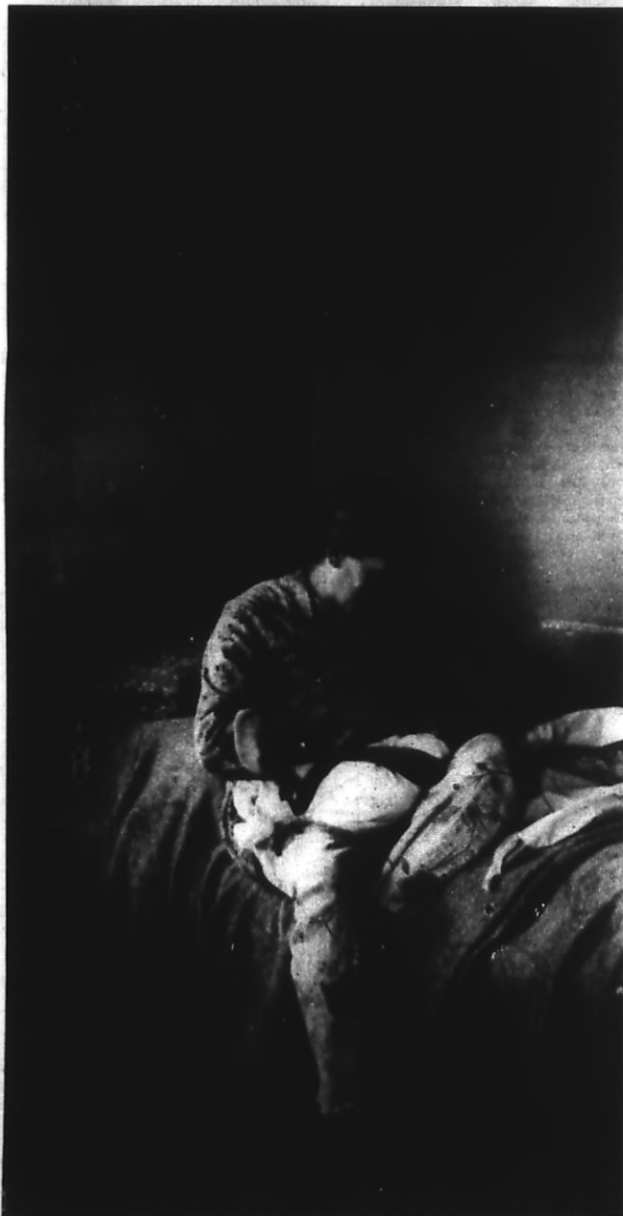
The organisers hope the photo exhibit will become an annual event, which will serve to demonstrate the unity of Palestinian culture. The Arab Thought Forum was quick to point out the deficiencies of the exhibit — the importance of an organising theme and proper display. Many of the photos were shown publicly for the first time and even their owners could not identify individuals who were photographed. "The older people who viewed the collection recognised many of the places and people for us," said Ibrahim Dakkak. "When the display goes on to Nazareth, it will carry more information." One of the earliest photos is of Haj Amin Hussein, Mufti of Jerusalem, in the 1920s, uncharacteristically wearing a necktie, who went unrecognised by many visitors.

The new interest in photography, according to the Forum, is to document other art forms and artifacts, such as Palestinian paintings which are bought and sent outside or destroyed and lost, to retrieve historical photos from outside the occupied territories and to collect photos circulating in the community. The Forum also plans national exhibits of painting, calligraphy and artistic handicrafts in the near future.

The waqf museum and antiquities department sent many photos of Islamic art and architecture. Other contributors were: the Jerusalem YMCA, *Inash al-Ura*, the Gaza Red Crescent Society, Najah University, the trade union federation, the Committee for the Restoration of al-Aqsa Mosque and private photographers. Hiam Abbas, Emile Ashrawi, Nabil Da'eq, Issa Friej, Garro Nulbendian and Rafi Safia. Safia lost half of his 10,000 best negatives when his East Jerusalem studio was looted in the first days of the June 1967 war. They have never been recovered. He said he hoped a committee could be formed to sponsor future shows.



PHOTO CREDITS: (from top right, clockwise) Bassam Shaka'a and French unionists, CJC; Jericho palms, Nabil Da'eq; Bethlehem scene, Issa Friej; Remains of Salah ed-Din pulpit at al-Aqsa Mosque, Waqf collection; Stonecutter during al-Aqsa renovation, Waqf collection; Palestinian mother, Emile Ashrawi; centre, Aqbat Jabr camp, Nabil Da'eq.



With a little help from the Israeli Embassy in Oslo, a Norwegian university student boycott against Jaffa oranges grew from a low-key campaign into a major media event. Right-wing newspapers accused the Oslo University students' parliament of anti-Semitism and moderate papers belittled students' efforts to keep Israeli produce out of their cooperative food shops.

The conflict peaked in early March when the parliament aborted an administration-appointed shop manager's plan to hold an 'Israel Week' in one of the three co-op outlets. The student boycott actually started a year ago. In an interview with *Al Fajr* weekly, Steinar Stefanussen, parliament president, and Olav Njaastad, executive committee member, traced the events which led to the recent adverse publicity for their boycott.

"We passed a resolution one year ago, in March 1983, to boycott Israeli produce because of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Popular sentiment within the student body supported this resolution, especially because of the Sabra-Shatila massacre," explained Steinar. "The proposal to boycott Israeli goods in our co-ops was not meant as an economic threat but as a vehicle for focussing discussion on Israeli policy. We thought it would be taken up in the local press but no one covered it at the time, so, in that way, the boycott was unsuccessful," he said. "Then, a full year later, one of our administration-appointed shop managers put Israeli fruit on special display and hung posters advertising 'Israel Week.' Students were strongly critical," added Olav.

The student representatives told how manager Granberg admitted having approached the Israeli Embassy to make plans to get around the boycott. His stated reason was that the 'students wanted him to run the co-op as economically as possible.' (Depending on the season, Israeli oranges cost more or less than Moroccan oranges, which are also imported in Norway.)

Following Granberg's contact with the embassy, 'hot' news of the boycott was 'leaked' to *Dagen*, a Christian Democrat paper published 500 kilometres from Oslo. *Dagen* wrote that the boycott was anti-Semitic. The news was picked up by the Norwegian wire agency and circulated throughout the country and in some foreign press. "This distorted information on our boycott was suddenly everywhere," said Steinar, "in local broadcasting, in *Dagbladet* (a liberal, independent daily in Oslo), and, in particular, in the Conservative and Christian Democrat press," added Olav.

The parliament executive was stunned by the charges of anti-Semitism. "We are frightened to see that any criticism of Israeli policy is likened to anti-Semitism. When you criticise Israel in Norway, then you are anti-Semitic... Young people have grown up understanding the history of the Nazi occupation of Norway. We have grown up anti-Nazi and are very shocked to be called anti-Semitic," declared Steinar.

"Liberals have put the question in another way: 'Why boycott Israel; why not boycott other nations that are less

Boycotting produce of pariah countries has long been used in the West as a way of drawing attention to political realities overseas. In Norway, Stina Jansson reports for *Al Fajr*, a ban on Israeli goods in a chain of student shops is causing a national furor.

Israel Embassy Boosts Oslo Boycott Campaign



Olav Njaastad (above), executive committee member, Oslo University parliament, and Steinar Stefanussen, parliament president: "The boycott was meant as a vehicle for focussing discussion on Israeli policy," says Steinar/JIS photos



democratic? Is Prince Hassan of Morocco leading a democracy? This is what they ask," said Olav. "Our answer is that this boycott was established after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, when there was a noticeable change in Norwegian public opinion toward a more pro-Palestinian and pro-PLO acceptance. Without this, the boycott wouldn't have taken place."

The student parliament members speculated that it is this common perception of a change in public opinion that triggered the strong reaction to the boycott from Israeli and pro-Israeli circles, "when memory of Sabra and Shatila is at a distance... This propaganda is also, in part, retaliation. When a Christian Democratic leader recently attended a meeting organised by the Phalangists in Lebanon, some papers were very critical."

The Oslo University student co-op services are run jointly by elected student representatives and university-appointed administrators as well as representatives of the Norwegian national government.

head of the Lawyers Union. Likewise, his private life was gravely affected. His family was forced to divide its time between Jericho and Jerusalem after he was forced to reside in the southern West Bank town. His wife and children, who go to school in Jerusalem, live in their house in Ras al-Amoud, a Jerusalem suburb. For the past year the family held reunions on the weekends.

On a more general level, town restrictions have had various consequences on peoples' personal and professional lives. Students, who make up 25 percent of town arrestees, are the most affected since they have to suspend

From the start of the boycott, (appointed) general director of student cooperative services Inger Prebensen "was against the boycott but said she had no problem carrying it out," said Steinar. "But the newspapers focussed on the first part — her personal opposition — only."

In January 1984, the original resolution was again taken up in the parliament after some students alleged that the co-ops had started to sell Israeli citrus. Again, nothing was reported in the press.

After the press blow-up in March, the student parliament executive felt it necessary to reassess the boycott. In late March they voted to continue the action until further notice, and issued a new statement stressing that Israel is still occupying Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza Strip and that there is opposition to the Israeli government policy within Israel itself.

One of the students who introduced the original boycott motion to the

student parliament told *Al Fajr* his motivation: "Fifty percent of Israel's exports to Norway is in fruits and vegetables, especially oranges. Palestine was known for its orange groves in Jaffa. Now most Palestinian groves are in the areas occupied by Israel in 1967. Israel has refused permission to the Palestinian grove owners to export to Western Europe because of competition. They are using economic pressure and land expropriation to force Palestinians out of their country. This is why I think we should boycott Israeli produce."

There were three points in the original student parliament resolution: that the co-op warehouses should not carry Israeli wares; they should publicise the boycott in posters hung in the co-op; and they should investigate the possibility of importing fruits and vegetables from the West Bank, Gaza and Lebanon. "The shop director ignored the second two points completely and, at first, we didn't really follow up any of them," admitted Steinar. So, it's ironically the Israeli Embassy in Oslo that helped spark the debate that failed when the boycott was initiated.



Oslo University co-op: Moroccan oranges on sale, Israeli oranges boycotted. "Palestine was known for its orange groves in Jaffa..." /JIS photo

continued from page 7

IMPRISONED AT HOME

Impact of Town Restrictions

Lawyer Jamil Othman Nasser, head of the striking Lawyers Union, described his family's life since a town arrest order was issued against him in February 1983. Nasser, who was elected mayor of Jericho by the council after his predecessor died but was replaced by the Israeli army, cannot carry out duties as

studies.

Walid Zaqqout, a freshman at Bir Zeit University, was put under town arrest in Gaza last February 28. He has had to abandon his degree. Samir Shalhat, from Jenin, former head of the Bir Zeit University Student Council, is also under restriction.

More seriously punished people are deprived of the right to travel in order to get proper medical treatment. The cases of Mayors Wahid Hamdallah and Amin Nasser, both of whom require regular medical checkups, are the most urgent cases. Others are banned from family visits, even in cases of emergency.

The most publicised case in this category was the prohibition of Samiha Khalil, director of the Family Rehabilitation Society, in al-Bireh, from taking part in the traditional three days of mourning after her husband died.

Last October, the Israeli military authorities notified Haj Amin Nasser that they intend to try him on charges of violating the town arrest order. Nasser admitted traveling to Nablus for a medical checkup without a permit, after the authorities declined to give him one. As one friend put it, "He risked five years' imprisonment in order to live five years longer."

PALESTINE AND LITERATURE

A Fortune - Teller Reads the Clouds of the Invisible State

by Said al-Ghazali

Dedicated to Livia Rokach

*M*ultitudes of possibilities and impossibilities are around us. We daily face them. The dazzling light of the Palestinian independent state is a possibility. There are myriads of the possible and impossible. Death is only one alternative. However, life stretches its arms to embrace us all.

The Orphaned Tracks in the State of Rome

A star for impossible dreams,
A cloud for murdered streams,
A rivulet for a Galilee procession,
Moon features, eyelids scout the orphaned tracks,
A flag for the state of Rome,
Horses neighing, songs, guards, soldiers,
and ancient cannons.

Old Rituals

Your song of Solomon, the first liturgy, a primitive one,
it collapsed.
Your stubbornness, O old lover, collapsed.
Your vineyards, carriages, horses, spears
all collapsed.
Your heart is a putrid pool.
Your life is rapaciousness.
The hills lament you when you pass,
Wandering from weeping to weeping.
The glory laments you when you pass,
Falling in transitions,
Floating in quagmires,
Awaiting the suburbs of the orphaned town.
I will never lament you;
I have no heart.
I will never lament you;
You are my ribs,
You die alone without rituals,
O old lover.
And I alone fledge my feathers,
Bang the drums of the funeral,
Ring the bells of the deceased.
The hills lament you when you pass.
My heart, the silent boulder, does not.
You awake or you awake,
Faking a glory for the Rome of Palestine,
Or faking a glory for the Rome of Palestine.

Rome of Palestine

O murdered boy: you have the glory and life of the heavens
Here, you have death, forlornness and departure.
Here, the Rome of Palestine constructed its thrones
in the age of killing and defeats.
Arab emperors governed it in 2000 A.D.
Here, the people of Palestine were annihilated.
They contravened the oath and charter of the emperor,
Ronald Reagan, who was born, lived and died
In the deserts of the Arab Najd.
O murdered boy:
Do you reject the thrones of writing?
Do you commit suicide!
Do you depart!

Improbable Possibilities

You can collect the clouds of the impossible
in a travelling satchel;
You can carry the trees of wondrous clouds,
The remains of an alienated homeland, on a far
journey.

You can meet people,
laugh, lament, take refuge in the snare of
the murderous poem,
Write a dreadful essay, write death,
Jump in the pool of your putrid soul,
Be immersed in your brackish silence,
And the algae of your death
Gradually and gradually invades you.
You can!

Limitless, boundless possibilities,
Possibilities of sudden death,
of gradual death,
of collective death;

Limitless, boundless possibilities.

You never get out of the earth's orbit —

When the earth is weary of you,

When people are weary of you,

When verses abandon you,

When straightened tombs oust you.

You rest on the stake and remain triumphant,

Or build palaces of fancy and remain fractured,

Or wear a pretty necktie,

Or draw an elegant smile on your face,

Or write a pleasing poem for the royal court,

Or praise boon and luxurious broadcloth,

Or kill you soul, the idol.

When they took love from your heart,

They defeated you.

When they kidnapped your darling,

They defeated you.

When they confiscated you, they defeated you.

What remained of you, murdered boy?

Butterflies?

You write a dreadful poem and thrust its bayonet in your heart.

You reject it.

Your poem is not your moons, butterflies;

It is not your confiscated lands, conferences,

or your rounds of discussions.

Your poem is not a cotton farm, a new oil well,

a loaf of bread,

or music of jazz.

Reject, mock and deplore yourself,

O murdered boy.

When the last part of the night fades,

Your soul unfolds and embraces extraneous stars.

You write your soul on white paper,

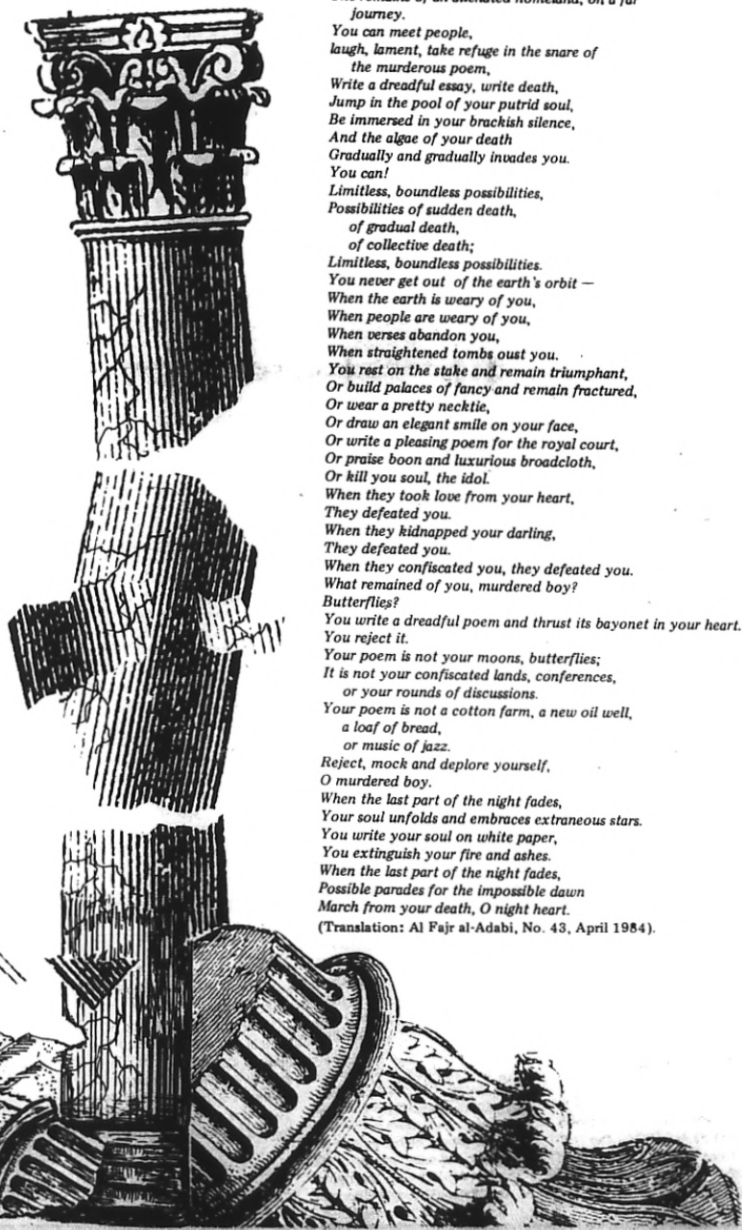
You extinguish your fire and ashes.

When the last part of the night fades,

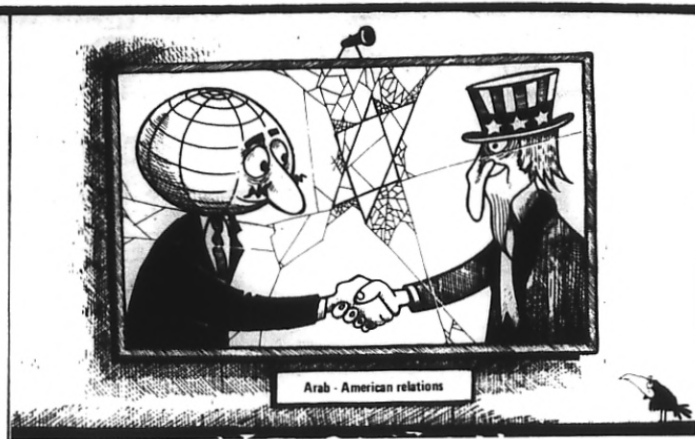
Possible parades for the impossible dawn

March from your death, O night heart.

(Translation: Al Fajr al-Adabi, No. 43, April 1984).



WINDOW ON THE ARAB PRESS



The meeting in Algiers of representatives of the three main Palestinian factions within the PLO was the top story in the three Palestinian dailies this week. The local papers also gave prominence to developments in Lebanon, especially the efforts to establish a new government under former Prime Minister Rashid Karami.

Among the week's local news was the vandalising of the tomb of the prophet Mohammed's grandfather, Hashim, in Gaza, and the sit-in at Hebron by families of political prisoners.

In their editorials, the local dailies dealt with the outcome of the Algiers meeting. Al Sha'ab described the meeting as successful and stressed that differences can be resolved through democratic discussions only.

Al Fajr wrote a similar opinion, adding that it was necessary to hold the next PNC session as soon as possible.

An Anniversary to Remember

Syria is celebrating the anniversary of the withdrawal of foreign forces from its land while the Syrian people are fighting for independence and sovereignty, despite American and Israeli threats, and while they receive more Soviet aid and play a larger role in reconciling the Lebanese people.

As Syria confronts imperialist plans, military threats against it mount and the imperialist media are waging a war against it in an attempt to create suspicion of its role as an anti-imperialist force.

The foreign troop withdrawal from Syria came as a result of struggle by the Syrian people with the support of the Soviet Union to defeat a UN decision to keep British forces in Syria.

Syria's potential is now greater because of its growth and cooperation with the Soviet Union. In the present situation it is able to offer an alternative to imperialist plans, as it did when it helped the Lebanese nationalists abrogate the May 17 agreement.

This indicates that there is an urgent need to resolve disputes between Syria and the PLO so that both can do their work to serve the Syrian and Palestinian peoples, and the rest of the Arab people.

AL TALIA
April 19

Needed Agreement

Talks in the Algerian capital are still underway between representatives of Fatah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

We believe as long as there is an intention to make these talks successful, it will be enough for them to succeed. This is because the potential is much more for success than for failure. The sought-after agreement is what our people had always expressed very clearly, that is, an adherence to the legitimate Palestinian institutions and leadership, defending to death national unity and the independence of Palestinian decision-making and rejecting any kind of hegemony or control.

The foundations for this agreement are present in the decisions of the Palestine National Council and should be reached because the conspiracies against our people are mounting. Rebuilding Palestinian power and strengthening the PLO should be the sacred goal of our people to confront any plots intended to take away our rights.

We hope this agreement will be reached so that the PNC will be called to session soon in order for it to plan for the next stage and its challenges.

AL SHA'AB
April 20

The People Can Bury Imperialism

Finally the fig leaf has fallen and Israel's leaders are exposed. Every sane person now realises that these leaders do not care for their people's interests, peace or future in this region. This fact became clear after their invasion of Lebanon and their attempts to cover up their debacle there with more bloodshed and more wars.

If the leaders of Israel really cared for their people, they would have reached a just and peaceful solution, which has been the dream of the people of this region for many years.

But by denying the rights of the Palestinian people, particularly its right to an indepen-

dent state alongside Israel, the Israeli leaders, by expanding on their settlement policy and dispersing the Palestinian people, are confirming that they do not serve the interests of their people and that they are only serving their masters across the ocean.

Israel's leaders are not satisfied with just establishing good relations with some of the world's most reactionary regimes, like the racist government of South Africa, but do not hesitate to involve their people in military adventures in places thousands of miles away from Israel.

Israel's foreign ministry director, David Kimche, will hold talks in Washington this week with senior US officials on 'strengthening cooperation between the US and Israel in Central America and Africa, and everywhere else in the third world.'

HaAretz reported Friday that Kimche's visit to Washington will include talks with American officials on establishing a special fund to funnel US and Israeli 'aid' to the countries of Central America. The paper said aid will include sending military and agricultural advisors to these countries.

Prior to this report, the American ABC television network quoted informed sources in the Pentagon as saying that Israel is on top of the list of nations to replace the US in sending aid to the rebels in Nicaragua.

US officials have confirmed that Israel's military sales to Central American nations are estimated at US\$1 billion a year. They said Israel's sales of weapons to El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala are done with great secrecy.

By this we see that Israel's leaders, by renewing their cooperation agreement with the US, are moving to a higher level in serving US imperialist interests. They are becoming watchdogs for the imperialists in the US.

AL ITTIHAD
April 23

The Final Communique

The Palestinian meetings in Algiers did not discuss in detail the disputes among the Palestinian organisations but showed the concern of the participants in the meetings for the unity of the PLO and its future. This was clear in the final communique issued at the conclusion of the meetings.

The depth of the problems in the PLO created by the Palestinian right, the last of which was the trip to Cairo, was brought to the surface in these meetings.

Yet, in spite of this, the meeting was able to agree on two important points to save the PLO. These two points were the postponement of the 17th session of the Palestine National Council, which the Palestinian rightists wanted to hold earlier, and the call to all the Palestinian organisations, without exception, to meet in May to decide the date of the next PNC. This second point shows the confusion of the Palestinian right when its Central Committee suspended three PLO members: the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command; Sa'iqa; and the Popular Struggle Front.

From this we see that the Algiers meetings discussed important issues but this was not enough to overcome all differences. Therefore, more meetings are required to unite the PLO further and to follow the decisions of the PNC.

AL MITHAQ
April 25

Egypt Back to Arab Ranks

PLO Chairperson Yasir Arafat's visit to Cairo generated much controversy centering on Arafat's role in the Arab world. Arafat's supporters argued that one of the main reasons for his Cairo visit was to encourage

President Mubarak in pulling Egypt away from Israel and the Camp David accords. This Egyptian change-of-heart and policy is being increasingly demonstrated. A glance at Egypt under Mubarak provides indisputable evidence that the Egypt of today is quite different from the Egypt of Sadat. For example:

— President Mubarak has refused to visit Israel since he took office;

— The Egyptian ambassador was recalled from Tel Aviv to protest the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in June, 1982. Cairo conditions his return on Israeli withdrawal from all of Lebanon;

— Cairo warned Israel that it would retaliate hard against any Israeli attempts to intercept the ships carrying the Palestinian fighters out of Tripoli;

— Egypt has complied with the decision of the Jerusalem Committee of the Islamic Conference Organisation to sever all relations with Costa Rica and El Salvador for moving their embassies from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Egypt, actually, was the only Arab country which took the initiative to recall its ambassador in San Salvador;

— Reports have been published recently about a secret visit to Damascus by Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazaleh, Egypt's defence minister. These reports led to different Israeli reactions, including one from Yuval Ne'eman, Israel's minister of science and technology, who said that he does not rule out the chance of Egypt fighting on the side of Syria in a war with Israel. Egypt has denied the visit took place;

— Finally, the ruling Democratic National Party in Egypt has announced it will not nominate for the next parliamentary elections figures who were part of the Sadat regime.

In short, Egypt is clearly on its way back into the Arab fold away from its shortlived honeymoon with Israel.

AL FAJR
April 25

CENSOR NAMES 22 NEWLY BANNED BOOKS

The Israeli military government in the West Bank released April 21 two new lists of books it has banned from the occupied territories. In two successive amendments to the military order dealing with banned publications, the general Israeli censor, Ibrahim Har'el, said the books mentioned constitute a "threat to the security of the region and the public order." The order is based on the British mandate Emergency Defence Regulations (1945). Among the books that were banned, five dealt with the 1982 war in Lebanon. Others, such as *The Rhodesian Dilemma* and *The Suez Canal, The Pulse of Egypt*, do not deal with the Palestinian question in any way. Another banned book, *Gush Emunim - The Real Face of Zionism*, was authored by Israeli journalist Dani Rubinstein.

Several thousand publications have been banned since the occupation. Possession of banned books is an offence subject to trial before a military court.

The Banned Books Are.

Title	Author	Publishing House	Year
RPG Children	Khalil Sawahri	Al-Karmel - Amman	1983
The Restricted Vision	Shukri Aliyad	Al-Hay'ah al-Misriyeh al-A'ameh Likuttab - Egypt	1978
Egypt, Arabism and the July Revolution	Sa'ed al-Din Ibrahim	Markez Dirasat al-Wihdeh al-Arabiya - Beirut	1982
The Best Times in Life	Kamal Nash'at	Al-Hay'ah al-Misriyeh al-A'ameh - Egypt	1981
Meditations in Stone Cities	Mohammed Ibrahim Abu Sinneh	Al-Hay'ah al-Misriyeh al-A'ameh - Egypt	1979
Realism in the Modern Novel in Greater Syria, 1939-1968	Ibrahim Hussein al-Faiyumi	Dar al-Fikr al-Nashr Waltawzi - Amman	1980
The Young Leader	Tariq al-Asali	Dar al-Ilm al-Limaleen - Beirut	1978
The Rhodesian Dilemma	Mohammed Nasser Mhanna	Dar al-Ma'arif - Cairo	1978
The Anger	Jamal Salim	Al-Hay'ah al-Misriyeh al-A'ameh Likuttab - Cairo	1978
The Suez Canal, Egypt's Pulse	Jamal Hamdan	A'alam al-Kutub - Cairo	1975
Jerusalem - History and Geography	Farouq Mohammed Iz al-Din	Maktabat al-Anglo al-Misriyeh - Cairo	1981
The Complete Works of Said Taqi al-Din: Speeches and Letters	Said Taqi al-Din	Dar al-Nahar al-Nashr	1976
Israel's Dagger and the Future	R K Kranjia	Dar al-Masrah - Beirut	
Palestine and the British Mandate 1922-1939	Dr Kamal Mahmoud Nakhleh	The PLO	
Testimonies from the Battle		Al-Ittihad al-Am Likuttab	
Balfour 1977 and the Slander of History	Abd al-Azim Manaf	wal-Sahafiyin al-Filistiniyin - Beirut	
Forums of the Ministry of Waqf and Pilgrimage		Dar al-Mawqif al-Arabi - Egypt	
The Lebanon War		The Ministry of Waqf and Pilgrimage - Saudi Arabia	
The Philosophy of Confrontation Behind Bars		Dar al-Masireh al-Sahafah, wal-Tiba'ah wal-Nashr - Beirut.	
Gush Emunim - The Real Face of Zionism	Dani Rubinstein,	Manshourat Dar al-Rayeh	
Oh Beirut	Translated by Ghazi al-Sa'adi	Dar al-Jalil al-Nashr - Amman	
Beirut - The Battle and the Lesson	Rashad Abu Shawar	Dar al-Jalil - Damascus	1983
	Bassam Abu Sharif	Dar al-Jalil - Damascus	1983



April 28

JERUSALEM - Celebrations will be held at al-Aqsa Mosque following noon and evening prayers on the occasion of the Muslim feast of *al-Isra* and *Miraj* (Night Journey of the Prophet Mohammed). The story of the Journey will be told by religious scholars. Scouts will parade through the streets of Jerusalem before prayers. (Arabic).

May 1
INTERNATIONAL
WORKERS' DAY

NAZARETH - 9:30 am: a gathering for a demonstration in May 1 Square, near Mary's Well. The demonstration will end with a meeting in the municipal second-

ary schoolyard. (Arabic)

KUFR YASSIF - 4:00 pm: May Day gathering. Speeches will be given by: MK Tawfiq Toubi; Binyamin Gonin, representative of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality in the Histadrut; Jamal Mousa, labour union leader; and poet Samih al-Qassem. (Arabic, Hebrew)

TEL AVIV - 11:00 am: a joint Arab-Jewish demonstration in Dizengoff Circle. Speeches will be given by MK Meir Wilner, MK Charlie Biton and Abd al-Hamid Abu Aitah (DFPE leader in the Triangle). (Arabic, Hebrew)

JERUSALEM - The Cultural Committee of the Union of Augusta Victoria Hospital Employees will hold a book fair from May 1-3 at the hospital. (Arabic)

May 4

JERUSALEM - The Public Institutions Union in Jerusalem will hold its second annual bazaar at the union headquarters on Ibn Sina Street, near the Post Office. The bazaar will be open between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm on May 4, 5 and 6.

WHAT'S MISSING? WHAT'S HAPPENING!

Visitors and locals buy *Al Fajr* Jerusalem Palestinian Weekly for news of the occupied territories. Many important and enjoyable events pass by unnoticed simply because there are no avenues of advertisement available to announce them. *Al Fajr* will change this by offering FREE advertisement space to groups, institutions and individuals who want to let people know what's happening.



Greek Orthodox clerics mark Good Friday, April 20/AO photo

continued from page 2

ISRAEL UNDER SIEGE

the most, and the Israeli intelligence services have difficulty infiltrating them.

In the rural regions, where most of the residents are Shi'ite Muslims, it is presumed that most of the guerrillas are Shi'ites. Some of them sympathise with the Khomeini revolution in Iran; others are former members of

Palestinian groups or supporters of the Lebanese Communist Party.

The sources say that in Sidon most guerrillas are apparently Sunni Muslims. The local inhabitants agree, noting that the attackers have intimate knowledge of the side streets of the town and act only when the streets are almost totally empty of inhabitants.

They say that when Israeli troops killed three attackers late last year, it became clear that those killed were three local boys, disciples of the fanatic Sunni preacher Sheikh Muharam Ureyfi.

Ureyfi, a former hairdresser trainee, was arrested after the incident and has been imprisoned ever since. (Reuters) (Translation: Davar, April 20, 1984.)

continued from page 1

SETTLEMENT ROAD

village councils met and decided to object. The Ramoun village council refused, Nasif said.

The Israeli authorities published an unspecific advertisement in *Al Quds* newspaper February 26 mentioning a zoning plan but not specifying which area it was for. According to the add, residents have two months to object. After a Talbeh local councillor happened to visit the zoning office and saw the plan for the village, residents of Talbeh and Deir Jarir were able to meet

the deadline.

Abd al-Fattah Barakat told

Al Fajr that the planned road will pass through olive, fig, apricot and almond orchards in block No 3, known locally as Hamadneh, on the west side of the village. Block No 5, which will also be affected, is a built-up area. Nasif estimated the road will run through two kilometres of village land and houses.

George Nasif said his village will lose 250 dunums. The road will pass through the west, north-west and south of the village, affecting three blocks: al-Hariq (block No 10), Ras (No 8) and Dison (No 5). The land is planted

with olive groves and almond orchards.

Three houses will have to be demolished in Talbeh if the plan passes.

The mukhtar of Talbeh said the road will limit lands designed for construction and surround the village from the west and south. Barakat said that he has appealed to the International Committee of the Red Cross to interfere and guarantee the safety of his village lands. "I appeal in the name of justice and humanity to all international organisations and all who have consciences to interfere on behalf of the residents," he said.

WEEKLY REVIEW

April 15, 1984

OLD FIGHTER DIES

WEST BANK — Hassan al-Baier, a Palestinian nationalist who fought with the late Palestinian leader Iz al-Din al-Qassem, died at his village of Burqin, in the district of Jenin. Hassan al-Baier helped al-Qassem form a national resistance movement which fought against the British colonialists in Palestine in the mid-1930s. Baier was arrested and sentenced to 14 years in prison.

April 17, 1984

POLICE INTERFERENCE

AL-BIREH — Robbers wearing Israeli army uniforms entered the home of the Ayish family in al-Bireh and threatened the housewife that they would kill her son if she did not give them all her money and jewelry, which she did. When the family informed the police of the robbery the police arrested the son on the pretext that they wanted to protect him.

April 18, 1984

REFUGEE FAMILIES HOLD SIT-IN PROTEST

RAMALLAH — Seventeen refugee families held a sit-in protest at UNRWA offices here asking that the international organisation interfere on their behalf to prevent the Greek Orthodox Church from evicting them from their homes in Bir Zeit. The church has filed a court suit in Ramallah for the eviction of the families in an attempt to reclaim the lot it owns on which the refugees built their shelters after they were forced out of their homes during the 1948 war. UNRWA promised to help the families, who got a document from Bir Zeit Town Council stating that they have been living on the land since 1948.

PALESTINIAN STUDENTS ATTACKED IN LIBYA

LIBYA — Palestinian students in Libya were reportedly attacked by Libyan intelligence during raids for three days during the past week of the residences of Palestinian students studying there. Reports said the intelligence men assaulted the students with clubs, leaving many wounded, some seriously. Several others were arrested and taken to detention camps.

Meanwhile, the General Union of Palestinian Students issued statements urging immediate Arab interference on behalf of the Palestinian students detained in Libyan jails.

April 19, 1984

SHOTS FIRED AT VILLAGE LEAGUER

BETHLEHEM — Shots were fired at the Beit Sahour house of Samir Qumsieh, head of the Bethlehem area Village League. Israeli soldiers were summoned to investigate.

CHECKPOSTS IN WEST BANK

New army checkpoints were set up in different locations in the West Bank. Near Jalazon refugee camp, passing cars were thoroughly searched at two posts near the camp. Posts were also up on the main Jerusalem-Bethlehem road and Jerusalem-Ramallah main road. Foot patrols were also more visible on the road to Bethlehem.

TWO STUDENTS SENTENCED

NABLUS — Two students charged with demonstrating were sentenced by a Nablus military court to a six-month prison term and six more months suspended sentence. The two students, Mahmoud Abd al-Fatah Khatib and Issam Khalil Nimr, are both 17 years old.

PRISONERS' FAMILIES RECEIVE GIFTS

TULKARM — Families of Palestinian political prisoners received gifts from the Women's Committee for Social Action in Tulkarm on the occasion of Prisoners' Day.

In Gaza, youth and student committees in the refugee camps visited families of prisoners and presented them with gifts.

CAR SUSPECTED IN RAMALLAH

RAMALLAH — Streets near Ramallah's lower court and UNRWA were shut to traffic as a car parked on the road was suspected of being booby-trapped. A search of the car by an Israeli explosives squad turned up nothing.

ATTEMPT TO SET COUNCIL ON FIRE

GALILEE — Unknown individuals attempted to blow up the Iksal village council offices. A village resident living near the building called the council head and informed him of a fire and explosion in the offices. Police and the fire department were immediately summoned. The fire was extinguished before a cylinder of butane gas put in a blazing car tyre exploded. This is the second recent attempt against the council offices.

April 20, 1984

NINE ARRABEH RESIDENTS SENTENCED

NABLUS — Nine residents of the village of Arrabeh, near Jenin, were given a two-month prison sentence, six months suspended and a fine of IS10,000 each by a Nablus military court on charges of incitement and demonstrating.

CHILD GETS TAX BILL

GAZA — A 12-year-old child, Yasir Hillo, was ordered by Israel's tax department to pay IS500,000 in taxes for a small store he opens once every week in Gaza.

NO VISIT FOR DRUZE STUDENTS

Druze students from the Golan Heights studying in Syria were not allowed by the Israeli military to visit their families living in the occupied Golan. The students had applied through the Red Cross for a permit to visit their families but were refused. The measure is believed to be a reprisal against the Golan residents for refusing to accept Israeli identity cards.

April 21, 1984

YOUTH COMMITTEES ACTIVE

BETHLEHEM — The Youth Committee for Social Work issued a statement on its activities over the past two months. It listed putting the roof on a house demolished in Aida refugee camp and cleaning the rubble of another house demolished in Za'atara village.

Other activities included a cultural festival at Thowri club, Jerusalem, distributing gifts to families of prisoners on Prisoners' Day (April 17) and building a retaining wall in Husan village.

CHRISTIANS CELEBRATE HOLY FIRE

JERUSALEM — Christians in the West Bank celebrated Holy Fire Day with processions for scouts and religious dignitaries. At the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem, Christians of different denominations held prayers around Christ's tomb. Heavily armed Israeli soldiers patrolled the streets.

CAR WINDOWS SMASHED

RAMALLAH — Unknown vandals, believed to be settlers, smashed the windows of a car owned by Ahmad Said Hamad, from the village of Sarda, near Ramallah. A complaint was filed with the police.

April 22, 1984

HISTORIC GRAVE VANDALISED

GAZA — The room housing the grave of the Prophet Mohammed's grandfather, Hashim, was broken into and vandalised. The grave was damaged and the cloth covering it was torn up. Stones from the grave were scattered all over the mosque.

The monument itself is 1500 years old and the mosque housing it was also built in the early days of the Muslim conquests of this area. The mosque was rebuilt 150 years ago.

Local Muslims rushed to the mosque to hold prayers in protest against the desecration.

ISRAELI WOUNDED IN JERUSALEM ATTACK DIES

TEL AVIV — A senior employee of the Israeli transport ministry died of wounds suffered during the April 2 armed attack in Jerusalem in which 48 Israelis were wounded when three Palestinian guerrillas opened fire at a crowd at the intersection of Jaffa Road and King George Street.

SOLDIERS PREFER JAIL TO LEBANON

TEL AVIV — An Israeli military court sentenced, for the second time, an Israeli reservist to a 14-day prison term for refusing to serve in Lebanon. Another soldier was given 28 days in prison for the same charge. This brought the number of Israeli soldiers who stood trial for refusing to fight in Lebanon to 120.

FREIJ RETURNS HOME WITH MONEY

BETHLEHEM — Elias Freij, the mayor of Bethlehem, returned home with a check of US\$1 million and a promise of an equal sum to be delivered later from the Saudi ambassador to Washington. Freij, returning from a tour of Australia, the US, Britain, France and Jordan, said he spoke to officials in all these countries on the situation in the occupied territories.

In addition to the US\$1 million from Saudi Arabia, Freij said he received US\$400,000 from the American government as a grant for the city of Bethlehem.

The Israeli-appointed mayor of Jericho, Jamil Khalaf, returned from a visit to the Emirate state of Sharqa with JD180,000 from the head of the state, to

Armenians of the Old City of Jerusalem march April 24 to mark the 69th anniversary of the massacre of more than 1.5 million Armenians by the Turks/AO photo



Scouts from the Orthodox Club march in East Jerusalem on the occasion of Holy Fire Day, April 21, the day before Easter Sunday./AO photo

be paid in three installments and to be used for development projects in Jericho.

TULKARM LAND CONFISCATED

TULKARM — Kufr Labad village council was informed by the military government that 1200 dunums of farm land in their village and in the village of Shoufa have been expropriated.

TWO STUDENTS HARASSED

RAMALLAH — An army force raided the homes of two Bir Zeit students in the village of Khirbat al-Harthieh. Books were confiscated and the two students were asked to appear at the military headquarters in Ramallah on Monday.

April 23, 1984

LAWYER BARRED FROM CLIENT

Prison authorities prevented lawyers from seeing Othman Hamdan at Atlit prison, near

Haifa.

Israelis agreed to allow Nazareth lawyer Walid Fahoum to meet Hamdan, who was captured during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and held in Ansar concentration camp until the prisoner exchange last November when he was secretly transferred to a prison in Israel.

At the jail Fahoum was obstructed by administrators and ordered to sign a series of forms. He refused.

EXPLOSION IN QALQILYA

Two Israeli soldiers were wounded when a bomb placed on the side of a road just outside Qalqilya was set off as an army patrol passed by, an Israeli army spokesperson said. The area was later searched for the guerrillas who detonated it.

GAZA CITRUS EXPORTS DOWN

GAZA — Almost 114,000 tons of Gaza citrus have been exported to Jordan this year, in comparison with 121,000 tons at the same time last year, Gaza's director of agriculture, Mohammed

prisoners at Hebron prison held a sit-in protest at the Red Cross office in Hebron against the bad treatment of their children at the prison.

The families met with Red Cross representatives and gave them a list of demands to improve conditions at the prison. The demands included removing the wall constructed in the exercise area and improvement in the quality of food served to the prisoners. The officials promised the families, who stayed there for four hours, that they will take their demands to the Israeli authorities.

Prisoners at Hebron prison had been refusing to meet any visitors for almost eight months now as a protest against the building of the wall in the exercise area and other bad conditions in the prison.

ation on Badah's whereabouts.

The family of Badah fear their son has been killed, as has happened to another Najah student, Bilal Najjar, who was found with his head cut off, two weeks after he was announced missing.

YOUTHS BANNED FROM HEBRON

KUFR KANNA — A bus load of Arab youths from Kufr Kanna was barred by the Israeli military from entering Hebron. The youths were on a tour of Jerusalem and Hebron. They were stopped at the entrance to Hebron by a border guard unit and ordered to return home after their identity cards were checked.

ARMENIANS OBSERVE MASSACRE ANNIVERSARY

JERUSALEM — Members of the Armenian community here demonstrated to mark the 69th anniversary of the massacre of more than 1.5 million Armenians by the Turks. Placards were carried urging public pressure on the Turkish government to acknowledge its crimes against the Armenians.

In Haifa, Armenians walked to the district court in the city where they burned a Turkish flag. They also held memorial ceremonies at the Armenian Club.

NAJAH STUDENT STILL MISSING

Najah University student Majdi Hassan Badah has been missing now for more than two weeks. Eyewitnesses said they saw an army patrol arrest Badah on April 8 after leaving a mosque in the city of Nablus. Lawyer Felicia Langer, representing Badah, has not yet received a response to a message she sent Israeli officials asking for infor-

Rayis, said. He added that another 25,000 tons will be exported to Jordan by the end of the season.

April 24, 1984

FAMILIES OF PRISONERS STIKE AT RED CROSS

HEBRON — Families of political



Local Christians and pilgrims from abroad celebrate Holy Fire Day, April 21, in Jerusalem's Old City outside the Holy Sepulchre. Heavily armed Israeli troops patrolled the city during the Easter weekend./AO photo



Apartment for Rent Three bedrooms, two sitting rooms, big garden, second floor.
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AID AS PACIFIER

programme to date. Its 'pacification' charge applies with even greater strength and consistency to United Nations programmes in the occupied territories, UNDP (United Nations Development Program) and the once withdrawn but now returning UNICEF. Both UN agency programmes, as approved by the occupation authorities, limit support to Israeli government institutions serving Palestinians — government hospitals, government vocational training courses, government nurses' or pre-school teachers' training. Such projects do not strengthen Palestinian institutions but instead increase Palestinian dependence on the occupation government.

"Finally, it should be noted that whether you call the West Bank and Gaza Strip programme in question a 'pacification' programme or a 'steadfastness' programme, projects remain similar, and suffer similar Israeli constraints. On the other hand, no 'pacification' programme has been known to pacify anyone anywhere yet, nor has a 'steadfastness' programme made anyone anywhere steadfast who was not already so committed by instinct and conviction.

"The 'Benvenisti Report' is timely and instructive, and everyone concerned (which includes you and me) should seek to improve our ways and means," ANERA concludes.

AMIDEAST's Response:

AMIDEAST's representative spoke with reservation and refused to answer most of *Al Fajr's* questions. He said: "I don't have a personal experience with the Israelis, and we don't have disapproved projects. But other organisations certainly have some of their projects disapproved. I think the term 'pacify', which is used by Benvenisti, is not exact. I think it should be 'control'. The Israelis want to keep their control of Gaza and the West Bank."

Official US State Department Response, April 24, 1984:

"US assistance to the West Bank and Gaza has encompassed social welfare projects but increasingly has been oriented towards activities that can contribute to economic development. In general terms, we share a concern that Israel has

not been forthcoming in allowing such activities to go forward.

"We have been discussing this matter with the appropriate Israeli authorities and we will continue to do so. In recent weeks a number of US-funded projects that have been under Israeli review for some time have been approved, which we view as helpful.

"As you know, secretary (George) Shultz has expressed interest in what he has described as the human aspect of the Palestinian problem. It is important, in our view, that the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza be permitted a stake in the development of these areas. We therefore believe that Israel should also be more flexible in permitting them to undertake economic activities, at their own initiative, to develop local industry."

Israeli officials present the issue of US economic aid to the Palestinian population in the occupied territories, according to accounts of the US consulate in Jerusalem, as if this form of US involvement contradicts Israel's interests. But a recent study by Meron Benvenisti's West Bank Data Base Project shows how false the charge is. Benvenisti proved how this aid actually furthers Israel's interests and helps tighten its control over the occupied territories' population. "US economic aid," he says, "aimed at helping the Palestinians may paradoxically facilitate Israeli settlement efforts. US funds, channeled into public works in the territories, could thereby release Israeli budgets for Jewish settlements."

In the introduction to the research, among other things, Benvenisti discusses the real objectives of US aid. He quotes American officials on what they call "the need to improve the quality of life in the occupied territories." A US official is quoted as saying: "I can't speak to you today about the Palestinian problem without mentioning the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza. Their well-being and desire for a greater voice in determining their own destiny must be another issue of moral concern for us, even as we continue to seek a negotiated solution to the status of the occupied territories..." Benvenisti concludes: "In this respect, economic aid can be perceived as conforming with stated US positions, such as the Reagan initiative," which is rejected by the Palestinian people because it doesn't meet their minimum demands, such as the right for self-determination.

The Process of Channeling Aid

Under the heading *Modus Operandi*, the Israeli researcher explains which factors influence aid and how US aid is delivered in the West Bank and Gaza.

US government funds are distributed via six private voluntary organisations (PVOs) and the programme is termed 'Agency for International Development Voluntary Agency Grants.' The PVOs operating locally are: the American Midwest Educational and Training Service; the Community Development Foundation; American Near East Refugee Aid; the Catholic Relief Services; the Holy Land Christian Mission; and the Save the Children Fund. Three of these organisations deal with development projects while the rest are engaged in educational and charitable activities. They draw up detailed proposals based on applications from Palestinian groups and institutions and submit them to AID in Washington, which operates under the State Department.

When project approval is obtained from the US, the PVOs submit their proposals to the Israeli authorities which, as the research shows, are the ultimate deciding factor. The Israeli defence ministry, through its military coordinator of government activities in the occupied territories, handles the proposals and the projects can't be implemented without its approval. Besides the Israeli military authorities which have the final say on any proposal, there are four other parties involved in the process of project initiation and implementation: the Palestinian recipients who apply for funds and suggest projects; the PVOs which solicit, draw up proposals and negotiate with all other bodies; the US government, which supplies the money; and the Jordanian government, which gives matching funds.

But, according to Benvenisti, although the financial contribution of the US government could give it a weighty role, US officials are rarely involved in negotiations with the Israeli authorities. "It seems," Benvenisti remarks, "that

The issue of US aid to the occupied territories is once more in the news. After studying the ways aid is spent, an Israeli researcher has concluded that it is part of a 'pacification' programme. *Al Fajr* features editor Awad Abdel Fattah reviewed the report and spoke to US voluntary agencies based here for their reactions.

Aid as Pacifier

the low-profile, passive and indirect role of US government officials concerning project implementation is deliberate and intended to reduce friction with the Israeli authorities on what is perceived as a secondary issue."

Israelis Against Development Projects

The Israelis are obviously not interested in developing the economy of the occupied territories and in promoting an independent Palestinian economy. This is shown clearly in the 13 tables supplementing the text with information on the projects themselves, their nature, total budget, agency contribution, local matching funds, status of the projects (approved, not approved, pending), date of submission and date of reply. The researcher classified the projects submitted by purpose: development and income-integrating; social, educational and charitable; and public works.

According to the research, in a seven-year period from 1977 to 1983, 358 projects involving US\$66 million were submitted. The tables drawn on this question show that only one-third of the submitted projects and 45 percent of the budgets were directed to economic development. Also they show that of the total proposed budget, only 54 percent was approved. "A comparison of projects and budgets submitted and approved by categories," the researcher notes, "shows the Israeli policy input and the resulting shift of emphasis from economic development to works." He also notes that projects in agriculture, industry, electricity and classroom construction require more than one year to obtain even a negative reply to submitted projects. According to the researcher, the low approval rate is mainly in two sub-branches: agriculture and food processing. The Israeli authorities, he explains, turn down almost all projects that involve purchasing of tractors, bulldozers or any other earth-moving equipment.

"This policy," he remarks "may be attributed to an attempt to prevent Palestinians from reclaiming rough or stony ground otherwise declared by the Israeli authorities as 'state land' because it is 'uncultivated.'"

Benvenisti also decided that the processing of West Bank produce "is viewed as direct competition with Israeli enterprises," and that this is why the approval rate (15 percent) in projects connected with food processing is so low.

In industry, only one-third of projects related to industrial machinery are approved. Classroom construction and vocational training likewise do not rank high in the priorities of the Israeli authorities. Their acceptance rate ranges between 32-36 percent.

Outright grants to Palestinian institutions involving sums that generally do not exceed US\$5000 are not favoured by the Israelis, "apparently because their utility is considered political."

The pattern that emerges from a cursory survey of the US economic aid programme through the PVOs to the West Bank and Gaza during 1977-1983 could support the claims that a serious effort has been made to streng-

Israeli authorities turn down projects involving tractors and bulldozers to prevent Palestinians from reclaiming stony ground declared 'state land' because it is 'uncultivated.'

Israel directs US funds towards West Bank infrastructure freeing its own public funds for other purposes, such as settlements.

then the economic base of the Palestinian community and that the 'community development' alternative is pursued. But, the researcher argues, the programme as it is actually implemented presents a different picture: "Israeli intervention, through its approval and disapproval policy, alters the emphasis and use of US economic aid in the territories to implement Israel's own economic policies of allowing only individual prosperity and curbing communal economic development."

He adds: "These economic policies are an important component in control of a hostile population. Curbing development of a viable and independent Palestinian economic sector forces the Palestinians into dependence on Israel."

Explaining how this aid furthers Israel's interests, the researcher says that the emphasis on consumption-oriented public works projects, revealed in Israeli approval policies, reduces the budgetary burden on the Israeli military government. The US, in effect, pays for West Bank infrastructure: "Classroom construction, internal roads, water and electricity grids are normally provided by governments, or at least financed by taxpayers' money. Directing US (and Jordanian) funds mainly to these projects enables Israel to free its own public funds for other purposes," such as settlements.

With this background, Benvenisti concludes that, contrary to the US's original intention, "the actual contribution of US aid to the territories helps to strengthen the pacification alternative pursued by Israel."

Do PVOs Pacify?

Commenting on the research in general, one director of a PVO said, "The major points which the research addressed are correct, but he could strengthen these points." He elaborated, saying that the basic issue which should have major attention is the control of land and water, which is aimed at "keeping the population off their land. We have had more than one experience with the Israelis when they refused land reclamation or agricultural projects," he remarked.

He does not believe that US aid helps pacify the Palestinian population,

as Benvenisti claims. He also said he is "not sure" whether such aid contributes to Israel's settlement policy in the occupied territories. "It is correct that Israelis do not put any money into the projects we set up," he said "but they try their best to restrict our aid and they have prevented us from sponsoring number of development and agricultural projects." He explained that "Israel has accused us of laying an infrastructure for the Palestinians in the occupied territories."

In connection with the term 'pacification alternative', he said, "This is untrue because we have not seen 'that a Palestinian community for which we sponsored projects stopped struggling or resisting occupation.'"

ANERA gave Al Fajr a written response to the report:

"Al Fajr correctly emphasises the flagrantly modest contribution to West Bank and Gaza Strip 'development' or 'pacification' (whichever one prefers) made by the US government through the voluntary agencies, but several other points should be made," they say.

"Although Israeli-favoured social welfare, public health and harshly limited rural infrastructure projects are insufficient to West Bank, Gaza Strip or anywhere else's minimal need and right, there is nothing intrinsically wrong with such projects. But Israeli rejection of Palestinian industrial projects, land reclamation projects, irrigation projects, increased productivity, job creation, high-level vocational training or institution strengthening compromises everything and anything less than those categories of development that Israel rejects point blank.

"Our situation is, in fact, worse than the 'Benvenisti Report' allows, since the allocation of projects by Israeli occupation authorities on the basis of 'good behaviour' remains unapparent to his otherwise wise computer. Thereby, a good project becomes compromising when it serves as a *quid pro quo* for disservices rendered by Village League adherents and their tactical, if not conscientious, supporters.

"The 'Benvenisti Report' makes no judgement on apparent intent, other than Israel, and only assesses the outcome of the US government-supported

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